



## **GOVERNMENT OF TUVALU**

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### **STATEMENT OF RESPONSE RE IRANIAN VESSEL FLYING TUVALU FLAG 17 July 2012**

The Government of Tuvalu acknowledges the concerns raised by the US Government about Iranian vessels flying Tuvalu flag. We are closely taking review of the information available to us regarding the subject matter and pleased to provide the following responses:

- (i) Tuvalu has not engaged in any maritime relationship with IRISL.
- (ii) The tankers Tuvalu registered were from previous international flags such as Malta and Cyprus.
- (iii) Tuvalu has only flagged NITC tankers, all of which are not sanctioned by the UN.
- (iv) All the tankers are fully classed by international classification societies such as the IACS.
- (v) All the tankers are fully insured.
- (vi) Tuvalu understands from the owners that the tankers will be used for storage of oil or delivery of oil to countries that are exempted from US sanctions.
- (vii) All NITC tankers flagged in Tuvalu comply with all applicable international IMO Conventions and can be tracked by the Long Range Identification and Tracking System (LRIT). By being able to monitor the tankers, Tuvalu is able to provide valuable cooperation and alert the parties concerned if the tankers breach any sanctions or carry out unauthorized trade. It would be a worse situation if these tankers are registered with another flag that may not provide any cooperation or information.
- (viii) Tuvalu will take appropriate action against any Tuvalu flagged vessel that violates UN sanctions.

We would like the US Government to understand and appreciate that Tuvalu depends on its ship registry for an essential part of the country's income, and as such, Tuvalu is looking to increase the fleet and quality of the registry by ensuring that all vessels registered are classed only with IACS members in order to finally attain White List status in the various MOUs similar to other registries such as Malta, Cyprus, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu etc.

We hope the above grounds would provide you a better understanding and would be most grateful therefore to further dialogue with you on this important matter should there be a need.

END